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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Poland

SUBJECT

Port Information: Gdansk

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO
CIA FOR USIB DISSEMINATION

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1.

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2. Alphabetical Designators In connection with information contained herein,
specific points of interest are

referred to in this report by the following alphabetical designators:

- A. Area being widened
- B. Second berth
- C. First berth
- D. Twelve speedboats
- E. Naval area

- F. Coal piers
- G. Lumber piers
- H. Ferry boat
- I. Sea tug berthed

3. Port Facilities

a. Channel improvement: In the area designated A on HO Chart No 4928, a chunk of the shore is being sliced off to enlarge the passage from 95 meters to 150 meters width. Length of this cut will be about 200 meters. this will make it easier for large ships and tankers to navigate what has been in the past a rather difficult turn. a 30 thousand-ton tanker is under construction in subject port and cannot be taken out until this channel widening is completed.

b. Controlling depths: that a 28' draft vessel can sail at any time in subject port. sailing with a 28'6" draft requires permission of the port authorities but can be done. pilots are willing to take vessels of 28'8" draft out of the harbor. there was dredging going on off the harbor entrance inside the anchorage buoys. these buoys are being changed but has no advice as to the nature of these changes.

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7. Pilotage [redacted] all masters should send their ETA about four hours before they arrive at the pilot station. [redacted] in this way they will shorten their waiting time for pilots and adds that this is particularly important in poor visibility. There are three-motor pilot launches available in subject port; one large year-round pilot boat built [redacted] and two small ones built [redacted]. These latter, [redacted] are not good in heavy weather.

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8.

"Ashore food is available but not plentiful. Very often you cannot get the simple things which are on the menu: no fish; no chicken. At the legal rate of exchange (24 zlotys to one dollar) everything is high. At the black market 100 and more to a dollar, everything is cheap. Everybody is dealing in black market currency.

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"When the Poles talk to you - more or less freely - they state that they hate the Russians and Germans, but having been squeezed between these two large countries have to be careful and diplomatic. There is definite hate and fear of these two countries. Gdansk was burned by Russian napala bombs just before the end of hostilities. The middle of the city, the historic Cathedral of St Mary's was partially destroyed. All the buildings on the 'Lange Strasse' (which had nothing but beautiful 16 century houses on it) were wiped out. At present it is restored to original condition by a long, long work by Polish artists at very high cost.

"A Napoleonic Opera House in the center of the city is still in ruins, but will be restored within the next few years.

"The port was not touched by the bombardment - and suffered only slightly. In the middle of the city stands an old dungeon. Your Polish friends will point to it and say 'this is the medieval MVD.' Then they will point to a modest building opposite to it and say 'this is the present UB, our present MVD, the Polish security Police.'

"Though the situation greatly improved since the, what the Poles call, their October Revolution (the Gomulka "Coup d'etat") politically, and at present the night arrests by the UB are rare, they still continue. The population is fairly outspoken and likes to tell political jokes especially about their 'friends from the East.'

"Poles don't know which way the cat will jump in the future. For them the Russians are as unpredictable as for us, only more so.

there are no Russians of any kind in Gdynia and Gdansk.

'Don't you believe it. The Russians are right here - especially their Navy and subs.'

"In the 'Grand Hotel' at Zopot - a watering place and seaside resort midway between Gdynia and Gdansk - many tables were reserved for 60 Russians - members of a delegation. the Poles pursed their lips, and said nothing.

"In the Cafes and Restaurants the Poles like to sit away from the other tables - Russian fashion - so that nobody can eavesdrop. In public places Poles would rather talk about weather and art instead of politics and economics.

"In privacy they state that politically business is looking up - that is if Brother K would not change. Economically the situation is bad. The wages are very low. A [kilo] of butter is 72 zlotys or three dollars at legal exchange. A kilo of red caviar is 300 zlotys. A year ago the same kilo of caviar was priced 90 zlotys. The butter was at the same price as now. As one of the Polish friends said, the prices are not going up, they are just slightly adjusted according with the notion of the government of what the population should have. A bottle of modest French claret a year ago was 70 zlotys - now the same bottle is 197 zlotys. At times they have plenty of cheap imported cheese. At times they have none. Explanation? Apparently a faulty distribution and fanciful buying. The iron ore, instead of being imported which both are here in the Baltic, is imported, because of the barter trade.

The wages of the heads of the departments of the shipping department of the Government

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are so low that the man in charge of the Liners department recently was hoping to sign on on a [] merchant ship as supercargo at the rate of 50 dollars a month to go to Casablanca and back. Unfortunately he could not get an exit passport. His wages at present are 2000 zlotys a month. This is barely enough for his family of five. The man is shabbily but cleanly dressed. None of the officials have cars of their own. A poorly made Polish car cost \$5,000 at the official exchange. The Agents were using taxis, and expensive proposition at the legal exchange. They were always and very noticeably and exceedingly polite to the chauffeurs, who, to me, looked like members of GPU - tough and rude."

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